



Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre Inc. (Wando) was formed in 2015 and is the only dedicated environmental conservation group in the Narrabri area being based in Maules Creek. We are grateful to have this opportunity to contribute to the discussion of Boggabri Mine's Modification 10 (Mod 10)- a proposal to which we are **adamantly opposed**.

Wando considers that Boggabri Mine has behaved in a duplicitous manner in its attempts to have a project that was, by any reasonable standard, for a new mine treated as a series of modifications so as to avoid due scrutiny. Issues associated with water management, cumulative negative impacts on the region, Greenhouse Gas emissions and the negative impacts on agriculture demand proper examination.

1. Boggabri Mine must not be rewarded for duplicitous behaviour

a. Mod 10 + approved, revised Mod 8 = Original Mod 8

The original Modification 8 was so egregious it was withdrawn; Mod 10, when added to the approved Mod 8, means the mine has now substantively achieved its original goal, having avoided the appropriate scrutiny afforded to a new mining project.

Boggabri Modification (Mod) 8 was approved in January 2024 having been amended twice on Departmental advice. Originally Mod 8 sought a 6 year extension (out from the December 2033 end date) for an additional 61.6 million tonnes of coal. The final approval was for a 3 year extension and an additional 28.1 million tonnes of coal.

Mod 10, applied for just 18 months later, seeks a further 4 year extension and an additional 30 million tonnes of coal; as observed above this means the mine has now substantively achieved its original goal, having avoided the appropriate scrutiny afforded to a new mining project such as the comparable Wilpinjong Extension - Ashton South East Open Cut (2017); Moorlarben OC3 : Newstan Mine Extension Project and Chain Valley Consolidation Project .

b. Boggabri Mine should be refused further approvals until such time as it meets previous conditions and establishes appropriate modelling and planning regimes- particularly with regard to water management.

The Department's willingness to rely on modelling for water management provided by the proponent is of the gravest concern.

On 29 June 2025 Wando emailed local MP Roy Butler (cced Minister for Planning: The Hon Scully and others) asking that our concerns over water management issues

associated with Mod 10, and our conviction that the project application should be withdrawn, be investigated (see Appendix 1 email redacted).

Our concerns focused on the condition of approval for Mod 8 that Boggabri Coal implement a Water Management Plan as approved by the Secretary, which we understand has yet to occur, and the fact that the Mod 10 Report (issued May 2025) states that “water management at BCM is undertaken in accordance with the approved Water Management Plan (WMP) (BCOPL, **2017**)” (MOD 10 EA, Section 3.6).

A Water Management Plan that is now 8 years old in a rapidly changing climate context is surely an inadequate planning base.

c. Not a modification but a new mine

This Development Application seeks approval for a project that COMMENCES in 2036 and goes through till 2040; it involves mining a new area for new coal- it is simply not a modification to an existing mine.

Recommendation 1: Mod 10 be rejected to ensure intergenerational equity; that future generations are not encumbered with a ‘zombie’ development

2. Cumulative Negative Impacts on the BTM Precinct

Boggabri Mine is but one in the Precinct; the cumulative and compounding negative impacts associated with large adjacent mines and the many modifications (the phenomena known as ‘modification creep’) which they have been granted over a few short years are impossible to assess or monitor.

About 3,800 ha of native vegetation has already been removed as part of approvals for Boggabri, Tarrawonga and Maules Creek mines. Removal of an additional 85ha will have a significant impact on the long-term viability of the Swift Parrot (recorded in the Leard State Forest most recently in 2023) and put it at high risk of serious and irreversible impacts. Also impacted are two threatened plant species and at least 15 threatened fauna species including koalas, quolls, woodland birds, bats and the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater.

Although Mod 10 (unlike the original Mod 8) does not propose to mine through the 3.5 kilometre- long, 500 metre- wide Wildlife Corridor essential for creatures moving east/west between the Maules Creek and Boggabri open cut coal mines, the proposed mine will extend to the edge of the Corridor. The Corridor will be untenable, sandwiched between the mega mines of Maules Creek and Boggabri; creatures and habitat cannot endure continual light, noise, blasting and dust pollution.

Recommendation 2: Mod 10 be rejected as required by the application of the precautionary principle to prevent untold damage and in the interests of intergenerational equity.

3. This region of NSW deserves fairer treatment at the hands of the Government

The communities of Maules Creek and across the Liverpool Plains are a vital part of our food security, agricultural resilience and offer much to tourists and visitors. For the Government to be complicit in extending the region's degradation at the hands of a dying fossil fuel industry would be unconscionable and counter to its own legislative framework.

In its [Snapshot of NSW](#), the NSW Government observes NSW is Australia's largest economy, and its largest industries include: information technology and financial services; manufacturing; agriculture; tourism and film and television.

This region of NSW, indeed the entire Murray-Darling catchment, deserves better than the *partially infilled final void* which is the final landform proposed under Boggabri MOD 10. This final void is in breach of the intent and principles of the Planning Assessment Commission's 2012 approval and is a further reason that this project must be rejected.

Recommendation 3: Governments invest in education, sustainable agriculture and protection of our invaluable natural assets including through measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

4. NSW Government legislative framework precludes the approval of this modification

[On its website](#) the NSW Government says of The *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023* (that it) legislates our ambitious approach to addressing climate change. It enshrines whole-of-government climate action to deliver net zero by 2050.

The Act passed both Houses of Parliament with multi-party support on 30 November 2023. It sets a clear path to 2050 with emissions reduction targets. It also ensures we follow comprehensive guiding principles while continuing to improve resilience and accountability.

The Act commits the NSW government to effective action on climate change to ensure a sustainable and fair future for the people, economy and environment of NSW. It legislates:

guiding principles for action to address climate change that consider the impacts, opportunities and need for action in NSW

emissions reduction targets for NSW:

- *50% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030*
- *70% reduction on 2005 levels by 2035*
- *Net zero by 2050.*

an objective for NSW to be more resilient to a changing climate

establishing an independent, expert Net Zero Commission to monitor, review, report on and advise on progress towards these targets.

Wando CCC submission opposing Boggabri Coal Mine – Modification 10: MP09_0182-Mod-10 (EPBC 2024/09887)

These goals are simply unattainable should this modification be approved
In our submission objecting to Mod 8, Wando concurred with the consensus that we must limit greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate Australia’s transition to net zero to avoid the worst impacts of climate change; this intention must underpin decisions made across all levels of government. The NSW Government has a stated goal of decarbonisation by 2050 and 90 million tonnes of reduced carbon emissions to 2030. Any chance of a just transition to a fossil-fuel-free economy in time to avert disaster is lost should this project be forwarded. As our major trading partners, the EU, China, Korea, Japan and the US all move to implement rapid decarbonization we face the very real prospect of stranded assets alongside environmental degradation.
Wando was heartened by the Hume Coal decision (30 Aug 2021) in which The NSW IPC acknowledged that the 106.7 Mt CO₂-e of GHG emissions from the Hume mine “are not justified” and “would result in intergenerational inequity”. See

NSW IPC Statement of Reasons for the Hume Coal decision [available here](#)
Should Mod 10 be approved, Idemitsu Australia is predicting that Boggabri Coal’s contribution to the 7.8 Mt CO₂-e overshoot in 2035 **will increase threefold** from ~70,000 t CO₂-e in 2035 to ~210,000 t CO₂-e in 2035 (with Mod 10) as shown in Table 21, Boggabri Coal mine Modification 10, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment, 23 May 2025 p, 56:

Table 21 Estimated GHG emissions

Year	Annual emission (Mt CO ₂ -e)											
	BCM (with MOD 7) Original development			BCM (with MOD 8) Business as usual			BCM (with MOD 10) Modified development			Increment of MOD 10 (Project only)		
	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
2025	0.23	0.07	20.8	0.23	0.01	20.3	0.23	0.01	18.2	0.01	0.00	-2.1
2026	0.24	0.07	20.8	0.24	0.01	21.1	0.22	0.01	20.3	-0.01	0.00	-0.7
2027	0.27	0.07	20.8	0.26	0.01	20.4	0.21	0.01	19.9	-0.05	0.00	-0.5
2028	0.21	0.07	18.8	0.23	0.01	19.5	0.24	0.01	19.5	0.01	0.00	-0.1
2029	0.15	0.05	13.8	0.23	0.01	20.6	0.24	0.01	19.6	0.00	0.00	-1.0
2030	0.11	0.04	10.5	0.23	0.00	20.2	0.24	0.00	19.4	0.02	0.00	-0.8
2031	0.14	0.04	12.8	0.23	0.00	20.3	0.22	0.00	19.1	-0.01	0.00	-1.2
2032	0.11	0.04	9.6	0.22	0.00	17.1	0.23	0.00	19.7	0.01	0.00	2.6
2033	0.08	0.03	8.7	0.21	0.00	16.7	0.22	0.00	19.5	0.01	0.00	2.8
2034	-	-	-	0.19	0.00	15.0	0.22	0.00	19.6	0.04	0.00	4.5
2035	-	-	-	0.07	0.00	8.6	0.21	0.00	18.4	0.13	0.00	9.7
2036	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.21	0.00	17.7	0.21	0.00	17.7
2037	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.16	0.00	13.9	0.16	0.00	13.9
2038	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.15	0.00	13.8	0.15	0.00	13.8
2039	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08	0.00	5.9	0.08	0.00	5.9
2040	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.02	0.00	3.6	0.02	0.00	3.6
Maximum	0.27	0.07	20.80	0.26	0.01	21.09	0.24	0.01	20.35	0.21	0.00	17.75
Average	0.17	0.05	15.18	0.21	0.00	18.18	0.19	0.00	16.75	0.05	0.00	4.25
Total	1.54	0.48	136.60	2.33	0.05	200.00	3.10	0.06	268.05	0.77	0.00	68.05

Recommendation 4: the NSW Government’s legislative framework precludes the approval of this modification

Wando CCC submission opposing Boggabri Coal Mine – Modification 10: MP09_0182-Mod-10 (EPBC 2024/09887)

Appendix 1: Request to Roy Bulter MP, cced: Minister for Planning: The Hon Scully

RE: BOGGABRI: MP09_0182-Mod-10 (EPBC 2024/09887) Water Management Issues

Reasons for Withdrawal of Application

Dear Roy,

It is our contention that this Modification should be withdrawn from Exhibition until such time as the conditions of approval for Modification 8 have been fulfilled. We ask that you take up our concerns with the relevant Ministers, particularly as the Exhibition period for this Modification closes on 11 July.

At the meeting of Boggabri Consultative Coal Committee on **15 May 2025** community members were supplied with hardcopies of the mine's draft Updated Water Management Plan, Surface Water Management Plan, Groundwater Management Plan, Site Water balance as required by the approval of Modification 8 and required prior to deeper mining at the project.

Modification 8 Assessment Report (Executive Summary p.v) states *Boggabri Coal is required to revise and update its water management plan, including the site water balance, and the Department has included the EPA as a consultee.*

Also note The Notice of Decision (p 6) *Clause 33 Condition 38, insert: 38A. The Proponent must implement the Water Management Plan as approved by the Secretary*

Further, members were informed at that meeting that there was a delay in progressing Modification 10 due to issues associated with the groundwater modelling and that it was anticipated that the modification would be lodged for review with DPHI in June 2025, with public exhibition probably in August/September 2025.

In what appears to be an exercise in undue haste, and to our consternation, Modification 10 was announced on 13 June 2025. A project of such magnitude, which will expand the mine's footprint by 85 hectares and extract an extra 30 million tonnes of thermal coal for an additional four years (on top of existing approvals) out to 2040 surely warrants a more appropriate, and cautious, process and appropriate time for proper community consultation.

The Modification 10 Report (May 2025) states that "water management at BCM is undertaken in accordance with the approved Water Management Plan (WMP) (BCOPL, 2017)" (MOD 10 EA, Section 3.6). However, as the 2017 WMP was developed prior to MOD 8, it does not account for the expanded mining footprint or increased depth of operations approved under that modification. This raises serious concerns about the adequacy of the current water management strategies in addressing the environmental risks associated with ongoing and proposed mining activities. Furthermore, Boggabri Coal acknowledged issues with the groundwater modelling at the May 2025 Community Consultative Committee meeting—after the release of the Modification 10 Report.

Considering these deficiencies, we strongly recommend that the application be withdrawn and seek your assistance in achieving this outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Cced: Minister for Planning: The Hon Scully, GPO Box 5341 Sydney 2001 [Contact the Minister](#)

Secretary for Planning: Ms K Fishburn, Secretary Department Planning, Housing &

Infrastructure Stephen O'Donoghue, Resource and Energy Assessments, NSW Department of Planning and Environment Stephen.ODonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au

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